

SHIELD OF SYMBOLISM PROJECT

The following activity is designed to refresh your memory about symbolism, since we will be discussing symbolism in several literary works. This activity is also designed to get you in "working mode" for the semester, to help me to get to know each of you.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Divide your shield into four sections. Each section should be about the same size.
2. Choose two or more colors for your shield. Each color should symbolize some aspect of your personality.
3. Place the shield sections onto your shield. Once the sections are placed, you are ready to begin detailing your shield.
4. Across the top of your shield, write your name and the meaning of your first name. This can be found at <http://www.babynamesworld.com/>
5. On each of the four sections, draw a picture (or use clip art) that somehow represents your personality. Use the Online Symbolism Dictionary at <http://www.umich.edu/~umfandsf/symbolismproject/symbolism.html/> to search for common symbols, or create your own symbols (a football to symbolize athletic ability, a book to symbolize wisdom, etc.)
6. Down the center of your shield, write your personal motto. Several mottos and proverbs can be found at <http://www.quotationspage.com/>
7. Finally, write an explanation of each of the items on your shield and glue it to the back of your shield. Be sure to list each symbol, including colors, along with a multi-sentence explanation of why you chose these symbols. For example, you might write:
"I chose to use the color blue, which represents truth and loyalty because I am both truthful and loyal. I place a high importance on honesty, and my friends know they can come to me for an honest answer. I am also very loyal to my friends. I have had the same small group of two or three friends since I was in third grade, and they can always count on me."

RUBRIC:

- One section includes your name and its meaning (5 points)
- Four symbols are included (20 points)
- Your motto is included (5 points)
- Creativity & effort are apparent (10 points)
- Shield is neat & organized in appearance (5 points)
- Shield designs are appropriate (5 points)
- Two or more colors are used (5 points)
- Written explanation is glued to the back of the shield (10 points)
- Written explanation enhances the shield by providing detailed and thoughtful explanations of each section of the shield (15 points)
- **TOTAL** (80 points)

COLOR SYMBOLISM

- Red** (Positives) Passion, strength, energy, fire, love, excitement, speed, heat, leadership, masculinity, power
(Negatives) Danger, fire, blood, war, anger, revolution, radicalism, aggression, stop
- Blue** (Positives) Seas, skies, stability, peace, unity, harmony, tranquility, calmness, coolness, confidence, water, ice, loyalty, conservatism, dependability, cleanliness, technology, winter
(Negatives) Depression, coldness, obscenity, conservatism, technology, ice, winter
- Green** (Positives) Nature, spring, fertility, youth, environment, wealth, money (US), good luck, vigor, generosity, go, grass
(Negatives) Inexperience, envy, misfortune, jealousy, money, illness, greed
- Yellow** (Positives) Sunlight, joy, happiness, optimism, idealism, wealth (gold), summer, hope, air
(Negatives) Cowardice, illness (quarantine), hazards, dishonesty, avarice
- Purple** (Positives) Elegance, sensuality, spirituality, creativity, wealth, royalty, nobility, ceremony, mystery, wisdom, enlightenment
(Negatives) Cruelty, arrogance, mourning, profanity, exaggeration, confusion
- Orange** (Positives) Energy, balance, heat, fire, enthusiasm, flamboyance, playfulness
(Negatives) Warning, danger, fire
- White** (Positives) Reverence, purity, snow, peace, innocence, cleanliness, simplicity, security, humility, marriage, sterility, winter
(Negatives) Coldness, sterility, clinical, surrender, cowardice, fearfulness, winter
- Black** (Positives) Power, sophistication, formality, elegance, wealth, mystery, style
(Negatives) Evil, death, fear, anonymity, anger, sadness, remorse, mourning, unhappiness, mystery